



Boulder
County
Chapter

Newsletter

November 2005

BIG Welcomes Derik Love, Ph.D.

Dr. Derik Love is from Detroit, Michigan and has been at NIST in Boulder since January 2005. He is serving on a two year postdoctoral term. He is the Secretary for the Boulder County Chapter of Blacks In Government. The following is from an interview conducted at the DOC NIST Building.

My name is Derik Love, and I am a recent arrival at the Boulder Laboratories. I am a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Electromagnetics Division in NIST. Before joining NIST, I earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Michigan State University. As a postdoc, my job is to conduct research in electromagnetics in order to explore new measurement techniques and emerging technologies. For instance, I am currently involved with a project that is investigating the properties of metamaterials, also known as engineered or composite materials. Metamaterials are materials that do not occur naturally, but incorporate a number of different naturally occurring materials in order to produce a material with certain desired properties (similar to an alloy for metals). Those properties can include being able to absorb, reflect, or transmit electromagnetic waves at a particular frequency and amplifying waves, among others. In keeping with the mission of NIST, part of my goal is to help develop techniques to analyze the properties of metamaterials, and document the differences that may occur when compared to the analysis of naturally occurring materials. In addition to my work with metamaterials, there is a lot of other work within the division that involves research in antennas, high frequency electronics, wireless systems, magnetics, electromagnetic compatibility, and so on.

One question that I am often asked is "Why did you want to become a postdoc?" The answer is quite simple. As a postdoc, I have the opportunity to engage in a number of different research projects, which will broaden my understanding of the field



Dr. Derik Love, NIST Postdoctoral Research Associate.

and expose me to a wide array of research areas. The freedom to pursue different research areas beyond what I worked on during my doctoral studies was very important to me. Also, I wanted an opportunity to publish my research in peer-reviewed literature, and NIST encourages that kind of scholarly activity. Lastly, I see the postdoc as similar to an internship.

My activities as a postdoc at NIST will prepare me for anything I would do once my term is complete, whether it's continuing to do research with NIST (or any government laboratory), or teach and conduct research at a college or university. A postdoc is a way of getting the additional preparation that one feels they need in order to be productive as a researcher throughout their career.

As a member of the Boulder County Chapter of BIG, I hope that my contributions can complement the work of other members in order to achieve the many goals that we have within the Boulder community. Though BIG stands for "Blacks in Government", our membership is far more diverse than the name suggests, and our goals are as well.

Members involved in community activities

Daniel Escalante, Consultant to the Boulder Valley School District Youth Leadership Institutes, was the featured speaker at the November 8, 2005 meeting of Boulder County BIG. He explored the future involvement of BIG members in the Annual African American Youth Leadership Connections Conference for youth in the Boulder Valley School District.

BIG and Mr. Escalante agreed to work together to identify youth to participate in the BIG oratorical competitions. Students will compete at the chapter level and then at the regional level and finally at the national level during the National Training Conference that will be held in New York City in August 2006.



News from the National 3rd Vice President for Blacks In Government



Richard Shields and Darlene Young

Richard Shields, Boulder County BIG member and National 3rd Vice President for BIG has been busy supporting Darlene Young at various events. He is putting together a team to write a proposal on the Youth Empowerment Day program. Richard is working to secure funding to ensure that there is a successful Youth Empowerment Day program in New York in 2006. (The first YED started in Denver during the 2003 NTC.) Richard has been active in various communities in Colorado and around the country:

- Attended Image meetings in Colorado.
- Visited with The Honorable Mayor Dorn, President of the National Conference of Black Mayors.
- Visited with Mr. Webster Guilory and The Honorable Johnny Ford, Mayor of Tuskegee, Alabama.
- Met with Mr. Derric Thomas, Sprint/NEXTEL on sponsorship for the 2006 NTC.
- Attended various meeting in Colorado associated with Blacks In Government.

National Events

**“VIOLENCE
IS NOT THE
WAY”**

-Medgar Evers



CONNECTING WITH HISTORY

Richard Shields, (left) 3rd National Vice President of BIG and Darlene Young, National President of Blacks In Government with Charles Evers, brother of Medgar Evers, the first field secretary for the NAACP in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement. Medgar Evers applied to and was denied admission to the University of Mississippi Law School. The Supreme Court decision in 1954 had ruled that school segregation was unconstitutional. His activities eventually forced the University of Mississippi to enroll James Meredith in 1962. Medgar Evers was gunned down in 1963 on the sidewalk in front of his home. His legacy is everywhere present in Mississippi. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (The photo above was taken at the Benin West Africa Embassy in Washington, D.C., at the 2nd World Conference of Mayors Summit on June 2005.)

The great baseball player Satchel Paige said:

“It’s not what you don’t know that gets you into trouble, it’s what you know that just ain’t so that get you into trouble.”

Goals and Objectives

- Serve as an advocate for equal employment opportunities and conditions that affect its members (hires, promotions and retentions).
- Promote the professional development of BIG members at all levels of employment in the Boulder area.
- Maintain a liaison with government agencies which have established BIG chapters and assist those interested in starting new chapters.
- Provide for the completion, synthesis and dissemination of information on issues of concerns to BIG members, such as job vacancies and training opportunities.
- Serve as a forum for addressing issues that have an impact upon its members so that they may better know and express their views on matters which affect them.
- Enhance the promotion of ethnic pride with socio-economic, civic and cultural programs, and fellowship, to unite Blacks and other government employees.
- Work toward the elimination of racism in government agencies.

Officers and Members

- President: Wilford Buggs, Retired from NOAA/MASC
- 1st Vice President: Richard Shields, USGS
- 2nd Vice President: Ray Stewart, NOAA/MASC
- Secretary: Derik Love, NIST Post Doc.
- Treasurer: Byron Louis, NOAA/NWS
- Parliamentarian: Katy Stewart, NOAA Research



Front Row: Becky Rios, Byron Louis (Treasurer), Georgia Madrid, Henry Guilford, Wilford Buggs (President)
Back Row: Tony Tafoya, Chet Madej, Katy Stewart (Parliamentarian), Ray Stewart (2nd Vice President) Carol Werner, Derik Love (Secretary), Richard Shields (1st Vice President and National 3rd Vice President)

Boulder County Blacks In Government Chapter Highlights



Planning meeting with Daniel Escalante to identify students for the oratorical competitions. From Left: Katy Stewart, Georgia Madrid, Maurice Broadnax, Daniel Escalante, Richard Shields, Derik Love, Wilford Buggs. (Not shown are Ray Stewart and Byron Louis.)

- Chester Madej volunteered to go to New Orleans to help after Hurricane Katrina hit the city and surrounding areas and states.
- Guilford Henry continues to work with FEMA in Beaumont, Texas.
- Ray Stewart continues to volunteer on the City of Boulder committee on Race Relations.
- At the NTC in Orlando, Florida, Wilford Buggs addressed the Department of Commerce Employee Forum on the activities of the Boulder County BIG chapter.
- Richard Shields and Wilford Buggs volunteered to work on the Combined Federal Campaign function held at the Denver Federal Center.
- Georgia Madrid is serving as the Boulder point of contact for the BIG Regional Youth Oratorical Competitions. Georgia is also serving as the Registration Chair for the American Indian Heritage Month Leadership Training Seminar and Honoring Ceremony sponsored by the American Indian Program Council of the Denver Federal Executive Board. The program will be held on December 2nd at The Denver Federal Center.
- Becky Rios is serving as Boulder County Image president and working to get the chapter affiliated with the national organization.



Rosa Parks Anna Lee sculptor

Obituary

ROSA LOUISE PARKS

February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005

Rosa Louise Parks, a prime mover in changing the course of American history, sparked the modern civil rights movement in 1955 when she courageously refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus to a white man when ordered to do so by the bus driver. Her act triggered a wave of protest that reverberated throughout the United States. A seamstress by profession, Mrs. Parks was born February 4, 1913 to Leona and James McCauley in Tuskegee, Alabama. Mrs. Parks passed on October 24, 2005 in Detroit, her home since 1957.

She was active in the civil rights movement long before her brave act of defiance and was secretary of the Montgomery Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She is often referred to as "the Mother of the Modern Day Civil Rights Movement."

She was one of the first women to join the Montgomery NAACP Branch in 1943. In addition to being the branch secretary, she was a youth advisor. She holds two life memberships in the NAACP.

Mrs. Parks's activism started after she married Raymond Parks in 1932. The couple volunteered on voter registration and raised money in defense of the Scottsboro Boys, nine young African American men pulled off a train, falsely accused and found guilty of raping two white women in 1931.

Her action nearly 50 years ago captivated the nation and helped propel a young preacher, Martin Luther King, into the spotlight after he was drafted to head the Montgomery Improvement Association that led the boycott. Her act of defiance on December 1, 1955 reflected strength and bravery that belied her calm, dignified demeanor. For refusing to give up her seat, Mrs. Parks was arrested, convicted of violating the segregation laws and fined \$10, plus \$4 in court fees. Her action occurred at a time when African Americans who refused to give up their seat on a bus to a white man could not only be arrested, but even killed.

In 1956, the Parks's case led to the United States Supreme Court ruling that segregated public bus service was unconstitutional.

Following the bus boycott, Mr. and Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit because of concern for her well-being in the wake of death threats and the bombing of churches and houses, including those of Dr. King and E.D. Nixon, president of the Montgomery NAACP Branch and a close adviser to Mrs. Parks. She became a secretary and receptionist to U.S. Representative John Conyers (D-Michigan), a position she continued in until her retirement in 1988.

Mrs. Parks received numerous awards, including the 1979 NAACP Spingarn Medal, which is given for outstanding achievement by an African American. Other awards include the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1996) and the Congressional Gold Medal (1999), and the Martin Luther King Sr. Award. She was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1983 for her achievements in civil rights. She received the Rosa Parks Peace Prize in 1994 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Mrs. Parks attended rural schools until she was 11-years-old, then Miss White's School for Girls in Montgomery. Later she attended high school at the Alabama State Teachers College.

Mrs. Parks's husband died in 1977. She is survived by 13 nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, it is asked that students and individuals send donations to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development, 65 Cadillac Square, Suite 2200, Detroit, MI 48226.



MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES



Climate



Ocean, Coastal and
Great Lakes



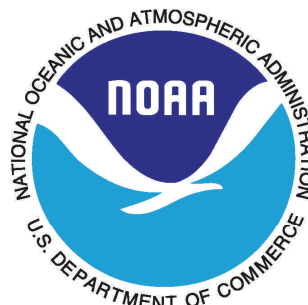
Weather and
Air Quality

NOAA Research supports the Boulder County Chapter of BIG
and their outreach activities to youth.



For more information:
303-497-6439
<http://eeo.boulder.noaa.gov>
www.oar.noaa.gov

NOAA is an Equal Opportunity Employer





Boulder County BIG Chapter – Region VIII
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wwbuggs@aol.com

Membership Application Form

Applicant Information (please print or type)

Name	
Home Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Employer Name	
Work Address	
City, State, Zip Code	
Telephone (business)	
Telephone (Home)	
Fax	
E-Mail	

Membership Information

Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____ Federal _____ State _____ Local/County _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Membership Dues are \$55.00 (\$35 National and \$20.00 local chapter).

Boulder County BIG Chapter
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